

Chief Touissant Summers, Jr.
Background of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force
Established July 2003

The Gang Task Force was established as a multi-jurisdictional partnership comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to address gang activity in Northern Virginia through dedicated officers and resources, thereby making the region inhospitable to gang activity.

Through the support of the Honorable Frank R. Wolf, Virginia's 10th Congressional District, the Congress of the United States has funded the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force as part of the Department of Justice Appropriations Bill. The project title for this grant is the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Congressional Earmark Programs.

The goals of the Gang Task Force were built upon three component strategies: enforcement, education, and intervention. The component strategy to address gang activity necessitated a phased-in approach beginning with enforcement operations and adding an additional component each year.

Enforcement

- Develop and share intelligence while using a coordinated approach in conducting a tactical response to gang activity and crimes.
- The multi-jurisdictional approach no longer restricts police response by boundaries
- Involvement of multiple agencies provides a common level of enforcement across the region

Education

Education is a valuable tool in disrupting gang activity, but should not simply focus on law enforcement, but also criminal justice system members, government and community service providers, schools, children, and parents

Prevention/Intervention

Intervention/Prevention is the most complex approach, but also the one that holds the greatest promise of positive results. It requires the design and implementation of programs that will provide a positive and realistic alternative to gang affiliation.

First year funding was dedicated to law enforcement efforts, and the membership included:

- Fairfax County
- Town of Herndon
- Town of Leesburg
- Loudoun County
- Manassas City
- Manassas Park

- Prince William County

Current Task Force Membership includes 14 jurisdictions:

- Alexandria
- Arlington County
- Town of Dumfries
- City of Fairfax
- Fairfax County
- City of Falls Church
- Town of Herndon
- Town of Leesburg
- Loudoun County
- Manassas City
- Manassas Park
- Prince William County
- Town of Vienna
- Virginia State Police